

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region II - 6th & Walnut Sts.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

57b 4/22/76

SUBJECT: RESMAPS Program -- Inspection of Nickelite
Industries, Inc., Amherst, Pa.
Plant and asbestos waste piles.

DATE: April 20, 1976

FROM: Stephen Copeland, Jr.
Air Quality Monitoring Branch (3EM10)

TO: Lee Marshall
Chief, PA-NY-OL Sources Section (3EM11)

On April 6, 1976, an inspection of the plant facility was conducted to determine if it was operating in compliance with applicable RESMAPS regulations. Although the primary purpose was to inspect the active and inactive asbestos waste piles used by the company, a brief inspection of the operating processes of the plant was also conducted, similar to one performed by the writer on May 23, 1976, and reported on May 30, 1976.

General Information

1. Arrival Time - 10:00 A.M.
2. Departure Time - 12:00 P.M.
3. Main Products - Gasketing material, asbestos paper
asbestos millboard (all contain asbestos)
4. Production capacity - 11,000 tons/year
5. Operating schedule - Varies from 3 - 24 hours/day,
5 - 7 days/week, 50 weeks/year; (depending on demand)
6. No. of employees - 10
7. Plant manager - Mr. Harry W. Jr.
8. Other EPA representative - Mr. Frank J. Anderson, Jr.

Discussion with Mr. W. J. Anderson, Jr. indicated that all of the waste operations during the inspection period had been to the point of final disposal. Being a gasket-type operation, he said it is difficult exactly what was occurring.

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Specific Observations

After approximately a 1½ hour discussion with Mr. J. M. primarily on the asbestos waste piles, a brief inspection of the operating plant was accomplished. The three (3) operations at the plant are, (1) Millboard Beater, (2) Sheet Packing, (3) Monolithic Board. In addition, there is a Pulverizer unit at the plant, which is used to process materials from the millboard beater and sheet packing operations.

1. Millboard Beater

This unit was not in operation at the time of inspection. There are three (3) of these units at the plant and only one is used for actual beating (mixing).

From the beater, where a mixture of asbestos, lime cement, and water are agitated together, the slurry drops to the lower level of the building where two paper machines form, press, cut, and dry the asbestos millboard. The unit averages about 2 tons/hr.

The process is controlled by a washhouse. Col. dust is recycled back to the beater. The washhouse is principally located inside of the building and is vented to the outside through a 1 inch in diameter vent line.

As of present, process slurry waste, composed of excess water with some asbestos fibers, is piped to the settling basins from the two (2) small paper machines of the millboard beater operation. From the settling basin, the partially dried, accumulated asbestos slurry water is pumped to the active pile referred to as the "white pile" as shown below.

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